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BRIEF NOTES
CONTAINING

SALIENT FEATURES OF THE WORK DONE AT
THE CURZON MUSEUM OF ARCHAEOLOGY
MATHURA

FROM THE

Year ending March 31, 1942 to March 31, 1947

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**BRIEF NOTES CONTAINING SALIENT FEATURES OF THE
 WORK DONE AT THE CURZON MUSEUM OF ARCHAEO-
 LOGY, MATHURA, FROM THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31,
 1942 TO MARCH 31, 1947.**

Year 1941-42

1. *Committee of Management*—The term of the last Managing Committee of the Curzon Museum of Archaeology having expired, it was reconstituted for a further period of three years with effect from April 1, 1941, with no changes in the personnel of the Committee.

Only one meeting of the Committee was held during the year.

2. *Administration*—The office of the Chairman was held by Mr. R. Johnston, I. C. S., Collector, Mathura, and that of the Secretary by Mr. M. M. Nagar, M. A., throughout the year except from September 12 to 26, 1941, when the latter was on privilege leave and Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi, Museum Clerk, officiated for him.

3. *Finances*—(A) The sanctioned Government grant for the year which amounted to Rs. 6,724 was spent under various heads, leaving an unspent balance of Rs. 139-13-10 only.

(B) Income from sale of Museum publications

	Rs.	a.
(1) Museum Handbook, 34 copies, at 12 annas each ...	25	8
(2) Museum picture post cards, 50 sets, at 8 annas each set	25	0
Total	50	8

The amount realised as sale-proceeds of the above publications, was credited into the Government Treasury under the head "Printing and Stationery, U. P., XLV—Acts and other book."

4. *Acquisitions*—During the year 75 pieces (Museum Register nos. 2908 to 2982) were added to the Museum collection which consisted of some exceptionally good and remarkable specimens of Mathura Art.

5. *Numismatic Section*—Ninty-eight coins representing Punch, Marked, Mauryan, Janapada, Indo-Greek and Kushana types, were secured for the museum from different sources. Of these two are alloyed gold, twelve silver, and the rest copper coins.

6. *Arrangement*—The antiquities acquired during the year have all been mounted on artistic wooden pedestals and those considered interesting from the iconographic point of view have been brought to the exhibition gallery after being provided with proper labels both in English and Hindi. In all 80 new mounts were prepared and 133 new labels were written both for stones and terracottas.

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Four ornamental charts showing different types of girdles, coiffures and head dresses worn by men and women in Kushana age were prepared and displayed in the galleries to illustrate the then existing social life of the people as known from Mathura sculptures.

7. *Cleaning and preservation*—A large number of sculptures and terracottas, in addition to all the new arrivals, were chemically cleaned and treated in the local Laboratory. Besides, six sculptures and four terracottas were subjected to paper pulp treatment for freeing them from salts.

8. *Photographic work*—As usual the rich and varied collection of Mathura antiquities attracted the attention of various scholars to whom their photographs were supplied.

A set of 15 photos of Mathura antiquities photographed by the Archaeological Survey of India, during the year, was presented to the Museum for which the Director General of Archaeology in India deserves best thanks of the Committee.

9. *Interpretation, Research and educational activities*.—During the year the Curator remained busy in properly studying the newly acquired antiquities. He also took up in hand the writing of Hindi Guide Book to the Museum and made substantial progress with the work.

Besides this, the Curator contributed five articles to the leading journals and periodicals dealing with art and archaeology. He also delivered a talk on the "History of Mathura as written on the sculptures" from the All-India Radio, Lucknow Station.

The students of the local schools and colleges visited the Museum as usual in large numbers and were taken round by the Curator and the Museum Clerk.

During the Exhibition Week when a regular stream of visitors were pouring forth to see the Museum, several parties were also successfully conducted by Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi, the Museum Clerk.

10. *Library*—Twenty-four new books dealing with History and Archaeology were added to the Museum Library for reference.

11. *Museum Building*—The Museum and its surroundings were kept neat and tidy throughout the year.

During the period Government were pleased to sanction the appointment of a whole-time Mali, as a result of which much improvement was effected in the garden and lawns. To keep the lawns green the water-pipe line was extended 100 feet in length towards the south of the building.

12. *Visitors*—During the year the Museum was visited by many distinguished persons.

13. *General*—During the year the Curator was deputed to the Laboratory of the Archaeological Chemist in India, Dehra Dun, to receive practical training in modern methods of scientifically preserving Museum antiquities.

Mr. Nagar has to his credit another year of devoted work for the improvement and development of the Museum; the Committee desire to place on record their appreciation of the work done by him as also their thanks for the draft of this report.

Year 1942-43

1. *Managing Committee*—During the year under report there was no change in the personnel of the Committee. Capt. R. Johnston, I.C.S., held the office of the Chairman, from April 1, 1942 to September 17, 1942, and Mr. F. A. Utting for the rest of the year. Mr. M. M. Nagar worked as Curator and Secretary for the whole of the year except from 11th to 31st December, 1942, when he was away on privilege leave.

Only one meeting of the Committee was held to pass the Annual Report and budget estimates of the Museum.

2. *Finances*—(A) The sanctioned Government grant for the year which amounted to Rs.7,122 was spent in full under various heads.

(B) *Income from sale of Museum publications*

	Rs.	a.
(1) Museum Handbook, 21 copies at 12 annas each...	15	12
(2) Museum picture post cards 37 sets at 8 annas each	18	8
Total	34	4

The sale-proceeds of the above were deposited in the Government Treasury.

3. *Acquisitions*—(A) *Archaeology*—During the year under review 90 new antiquities (vide Museum Register nos. 2983 to 3073) were acquired and added to the Museum. They consist many important and unique pieces.

A set of 43 antiquities was presented by Pandit Govind Charan, Curio-Dealer and Museum Agent, which comprises many remarkable specimens.

(B) *Numismatics*—In all 54 coins belonging to Maurya, Indo-Greek, Kushana, Naga and Rajput dynasties were purchased for the Museum Coin Cabinet. Of them one is gold, five billion and the rest copper coins. The gold coin belongs to the Kushana Emperor Vasudeva while the billion coins comprise some good specimens of Adivaraha Bhoja and the Rajput king Anangapala.

4. *Arrangement*—Of the antiquities acquired during the year the important ones were mounted on artistic wooden pedestals and brought to the exhibition galleries after being provided with proper labels in English and Hindustani. In all 40 new mounts were prepared and 88 fresh labels were written both for stones and terracottas.

The antiquities displayed in the two wall cases in the Hall were re-arranged more systematically. A new wall case was also installed in the gallery to display twenty-four important pieces of post Gupta art selected from the Museum godown.

5. *Cleaning and Preservation*—Ninty new antiquities were cleaned and chemically treated in the Museum Laboratory. Besides four sculptures and six terracottas were subjected to paper pulp treatment, and about 200 coins were treated chemically.

6. *Interpretation, Research and Education Activities*—During the year the Curator kept himself engaged in properly studying the interpreting the newly acquired antiquities. He also contributed some articles and broadcast a talk on the History of Mathura from Lucknow Radio Station.

Four full size photo prints of the ornamental charts and one of the Kushana Brahmi Chart displayed in the Museum were presented to the Departmental Museum of the Banaras Hindu University.

The local schools and colleges sent their students to the Museum as usual to see the exhibits. Owing to political condition the number of visitors during the year was considerably small.

7. *Library*—Besides various journals on indology 40 new books were added to the Museum Reference Library.

8. *Museum Building*—During the year the Museum and its surroundings were kept entirely neat and clean. Due to the efforts of the whole time Mali the Museum garden and lawns were much improved to give a better view.

9. *Visitors*—The Mathura Museum attracted like previous years a number of distinguished visitors from far and wide.

10. *General*—During the year the Curator visited a number of important sites in the district and collected some valuable antiquities for the Museum.

Year 1943-44

1. *Managing Committee*—During the year under review the personnel of the Managing Committee remained unchanged. Mr. F. A. Utting, Collector held the office of the Chairman throughout the year. Mr. M. M. Nagar worked as Curator for the whole year except from 3rd to 30th August, 1943, when Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi officiated for him.

One meeting of the Committee was held.

2. *Finances*—(A) The Government grant for the year which amounted to Rs.7,694 was spent in full under various heads.

(B) *Income from sale of Museum Publications*

	Rs	a.
(1) Museum Handbook, 61 copies at 12 annas each ...	45	12
(2) Museum picture post cards, 104 sets at 8 annas each	52	0
Total ...	97	12

The amount realised as sale-proceeds of the above was credited into the Government Treasury, Mathura, as usual.

3. *Acquisition*—(A) *Archaeology*—During the year 44 new antiquities (vide Museum Register nos. 3074 to 3117) were added to the Museum. They consists many interesting pieces.

(B) *Numismatics*—During the year 31 coins belonging to Indo-Scythians, Kushanas and Nagas were purchased for the Museum Cabinet.

4. *Arrangement*—During the year 40 important antiquities were mounted on wooden pedestals and exhibited in the galleries with proper labels in Hindi and English. During the year 50 old labels were replaced by new ones.

5. *Cleaning and preservation*—In the museum laboratory all the newly antiquities were cleaned and chemically treated. Fifty coins were scientifically cleaned.

6. *Research and Educational Activities*—During the year the Curator contributed about six articles to the leading journals and periodicals. He also delivered two lectures to popularise the Museum in the local public.

7. *Library*—Besides various journals and periodicals, 15 new books were added to the Museum Library during the year.

8. *Museum building*—The Museum and its surroundings were kept neat and tidy and the gardens improved considerably.

9. *Visitors*—The Museum was graced by a number of distinguished visitors this year. The most important visitor was H. E. General Sir Auchinleck, C-in-C of India.

Year 1944-45

1. *Managing Committee*—The term of the Committee of the Museum having expired, it was reconstituted for a further period of three years with effect from April 1, 1944. Only one meeting was held during the year.

2. *Administration*—Mr. F. A. Uting, Collector, Mathura, held the office of the Chairman, from April 1 to September 19, 1944, Mr. A. A. Kidwai, from September 20 to October 14, 1944, and Mr. S. S. L. Dar, I.C.S., for the rest of the year. Mr. M. M. Nagar, remained as Curator and Secretary throughout the year except from September 29 to November 5, 1944, when Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi officiated for him.

3. *Finances*—(A) The Government grant for the year amounting to Rs. 8,276 was spent under various heads as usual.

(B) *Sale of Museum Publications*

	Rs.	a.
(1) Museum Handbook, 70 copies at 12 annas each	52	8
(2) Museum picture post cards, 131 sets, at 8 annas each	65	8
Total	8	0

Sale-proceeds of the above were deposited into the Government Treasury.

4. *Acquisitions*—(A) *Archaeology*—During the year 97 new antiquities consisting of many important and valuable objects (vide Museum Register nos. 3118 to 3214) were added to the existing collection. A set of 6 antiquities was acquired from Kuanwali Gali in the heart of the city while laying out the water-pipe line by the Municipal Board. A group of 42 sculptures since long in the possession of a local Chaubey was also purchased out of the donation of Professor Dubricul of Pondichery. Towards the close of the year a set of 6 antiquities discovered at Dori Bazar, near Nabi Sahib Mosque, was added to the Museum. These pieces were obtained during the sewer line digging operations there by the local Municipal Board.

(B) *Numismatics*—This year only 14 coins were added to the cabinet. Of them, 9 were purchased and 5 came as presents.

5. *Arrangement*—Of the antiquities acquired during the year 50 were mounted on wooden pedestals and exhibited in cases according to their chronological sequence.

6. *Cleaning and Preservation*—In the Museum Laboratory all the newly acquired antiquities were cleaned. Besides, 50 coins were also scientifically treated and cleaned.

7. *Research and Educational Activities*—During the year under report the Curator contributed six articles and delivered two lectures regarding Mathura Art and Sculptures.

8. *Library*—Besides various journals and periodicals on Indology 19 new books were added to the Museum Library.

9. *Museum Building*—During the year the Museum and its surroundings were kept entirely neat and tidy, and gardens were considerably improved.

10. *Visitors*—During the year the Museum was visited by many distinguished visitors including the new Director General of Archaeology in India, Dr. R. E. Mortimer-Wheeler.

Year 1945-46

1. *Managing Committee*—The personnel of the Committee as reconstituted last year remained unchanged, but towards the close of the year the Superintendent, Government Gardens, Agra, was added to the Committee as an *ex officio* member, and the Assistant Superintendent, Central Asian Antiquities Museum, New Delhi, was also included in the Committee in place of the Superintendent, Archaeological Survey, Northern Circle, Agra.

Only one meeting of the Committee was held during the year.

2. *Administration*—Mr. S. S. L. Dar, I.C.S., Collector, Mathura, held the office of the Chairman of the Committee throughout the year except a few days when it was held by Mr. R. P. Mathur, Deputy Collector, Mathura.

Mr. M. M. Nagar remained as Curator and Secretary from April 1st, 1945 to January 25, 1946, except from April 8 to May 22, 1945, when he was on deputation to Pondicherry for training in Field Archaeology and during which period Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi officiated for him. In the month of January, 1946

Mr. Nagar was transferred to the Provincial Museum, Lucknow, to work as officiating Curator there and was relieved by Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi. Since January 20, 1946, Pandit Chaturvedi was placed in charge of the Museum and acted as Curator in addition to his own duties.

3. *Finances*—(A) *Expenditure*—The Government Grant for the year which amounted to Rs.16,324 was spent under various heads.

(B) *Income*—Sale-proceeds of the Museum Publications.

Rs.122.4 cost of 163 copies of the Museum Handbook and Rs.52 price of 104 sets of Museum picture post cards were realised and deposited into the Government Treasury as usual.

4. *Acquisitions*—(A) *Archaeology*—During the year under review five antiquities (Museum Register nos. 3215-A to 3218) were added to the Museum collection.

(B) *Numismatics*—During the year 95 coins were added to the Museum Coin Cabinet.

5. *Arrangement*—During the year 70 antiquities were mounted on artistic wooden pedestals and were provided with proper labels in Hindi and English both. In addition to these, 116 old labels were replaced by new ones.

The Medieval sculptures exhibited in Hexagonal Bay 4 of the Museum Hall were rearranged according to their iconography.

6. *Cleaning and Preservation*—All the newly acquired antiquities were treated in the Museum Laboratory before exhibition in the Central Hall.

7. *Research and Educational Activities*—During the year the Curator contributed three articles to the journals, and prepared the Hindi Guide Book to the Museum.

8. *Library*—In the year 16 new books were added to the Museum Library, dealing with Indian Art, Religion, History and Archaeology.

9. *Museum Building*—The building and grounds were maintained in a neat and tidy condition through the year. During the year Government was pleased to sanction a special grant of Rs. 6,520 for carrying out the long-felt special repairs to the building, which were satisfactorily executed in co-operation with the Public Works Department.

10. *Visitors*—The Museum as usual attracted a large number of visitors from India and abroad during the year.

The year under report was singularly lucky as the Museum was graced by the kind visit of Her Excellency Lady Wavell with her guest General Sir Archur Wanchope, Ex-Governor of Palestine on the 1st of February, 1946. They were taken round by Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi, the then officiating Curator of the Museum and were explained the most important antiquities exhibited in the Museum. They evinced admirable interest in the rare gems of the Kushana and Gupta Arts so nicely exhibited in the galleries and devoted their full two hours' time in seeing the whole Museum. The party was fully satisfied with the work and behaviour of Pandit Chaturvedi.

Year 1946-47

1. *Managing Committee*—The personnel of the Committee as reconstituted for three years remained unchanged.

One meeting of the Committee was held during the year to transact important business and to pass the Annual Report and the Budget estimates.

2. *Administration*—Mr. S. S. L. Dar, I.C.S., held the office of the Chairman from April to 20, August, 1946, Mr. T. N. Kaul, I.C.S., from August 12, 1946 to February 7, 1947, and Mr. J. N. Singhal, P.C.S., for the rest of the year.

Pandit J. P. Chaturvedi continued to work as officiating Curator in addition to his own duties till April 15, 1946, and was relieved by Mr. K. D. Bajpai, M.A., on April 16, 1946, who since then worked as Curator and Secretary throughout the year.

Considering the good services of the last seventeen years of Sri J. P. Chaturvedi, Museum Clerk, the Government were pleased to promote him as Sub-Curator and to sanction for him a special scale of pay, in G. O. no. A-1907/XV-768-46, dated August 26, 1946.

3. *Finances*—(A) *Expenditure*—The Government grant for the year which amounted to Rs.9,821 was spent under various heads, leaving a balance of only Rs.33.

(B) *Income*—(i) *Sale of Museum Publications.*

	Rs. a.
(a) Museum Handbook 85 copies at 12 annas each	63 12
(b) Museum picture post cards, 20 sets at 8 annas each	10 0
Total ...	<hr/> 73 12 <hr/>

The amount realised as sale-proceeds of the above publications was credited into the Government Treasury under the head "Printing and Stationery, U. P.—XLV—Acts and Books."

(ii) *Sale of Grass*

The grass in the Museum compound was sold by auction for Rs.35. This amount was credited into the local Government Treasury under the head "Miscellaneous Department, U. P.—XXXVI—Museum Receipts."

4. *Acquisitions*—(A) *Archaeology*—During the year under report 42 antiquities (Museum Register no. 3219 to 3260) were added to the Museum Collection, which consisted of some valuable sculptures and inscriptions.

(B) *Numismatics*—Fifteen coins were added to the cabinet. All of them were purchased for a total of Rs.297.5 including a sum of Rs.152.5 the balance from Professor Dubrieul's donation. The coins include one (gold) of Chandra Gupta II, Archer Tupe; one (gold) Kacha type; one (gold) coin of Huvishka with MAO on the reverse (P. M. C. XVIII, no. 123); five (silver) punch-marked coins and seven copper coins.

5. *Arrangement*—During the year 45 antiquities were mounted on artistic wooden pedestals and provided with suitable labels. Fifty-four new labels were written and 38 old ones were renewed.

Gandhara and Nalanda sculptures were re-arranged in a wall show case. The selected pieces of inscribed bricks from Mora and Ganesra sites and pottery from different localities were exhibited in a separate table case for the first time.

6. *Cleaning and Preservation*—All the new antiquities were cleaned in the Laboratory. Four sculptures were subjected to paper-pulp treatment.

7. *Research and Educational Activities*—Being his first year the Curator, Mr. Bajpai remained busy in studying and making himself well acquainted with the vast collection of antiquities in the Museum. He contributed about 10 articles in the leading journals and periodicals, and delivered a talk on Mathura Art under the auspices of the Braj Sahitya Mandals, Mathura. During the year photos of famous Mathura antiquities were supplied to the scholars and institutions as usual. In the last week of January an exhibition of historical objects was organised by the local Champa Agarwala College. The Museum took leading part in the Exhibition and in a corner some important museum articles were exhibited, which were highly appreciated by the teachers, students, and the outside visitors.

8. *Library*—Besides the scientific Bulletins, Journals and Periodicals, 29 new books dealing with Indian Art, History and Archaeology were added to the Library.

9. *Museum Building and Gardens*—The building, gardens and lawns were maintained in a neat and tidy condition. As specially suggested by Mr. M. S. Randhawa, I.C.S. some Kadamba (*Anthocephalus Indicus*) plants were planted in the Museum compound and three red Asoka (*Saraca Indica*) plants were ordered from the Empress Botanical Gardens, Poona.

10. *Visitors*—During the year Museum was visited by a large number of visitors from India and abroad, as usual.

This year British Delegation consisting of Sir Richard Winstead, Vice-Chairman, Royal Asiatic Society, Dr. K. de. B. Codrington, London University, and Mr. Basil Gray of British Museum, came on behalf of the Royal Academy, London, to make the final selection of antiquities from this Museum for the proposed Exhibition of Indian Art to be organised by the Royal Academy in the winter of 1947-48. They selected 15 sculptures and 4 terracottas for the Exhibition.

11. *General*—During the year the Curator was on tour for 10 days. He visited the several sites in the district and acquired 24 pieces in all for the Museum. In the course of his deputation to Nagpur and Patna he visited the famous Museum at Sanchi, Nagpur, Patna and Nalanda and the historical sites of Besnagar, Udaigiri, Sanchi, Gaya, Bodh-Gaya and Rajgir.

The curator prepared a comprehensive scheme for reorganisation of the Curzon Museum of Archaeology, Mathura, and submitted the same for consideration of the Museum Re-organisation Committee recently appointed by the U. P. Government. It is gratifying to note that the Sub-Committee constituted by the above Committee has been kind enough to accept this scheme with slight modifications.

